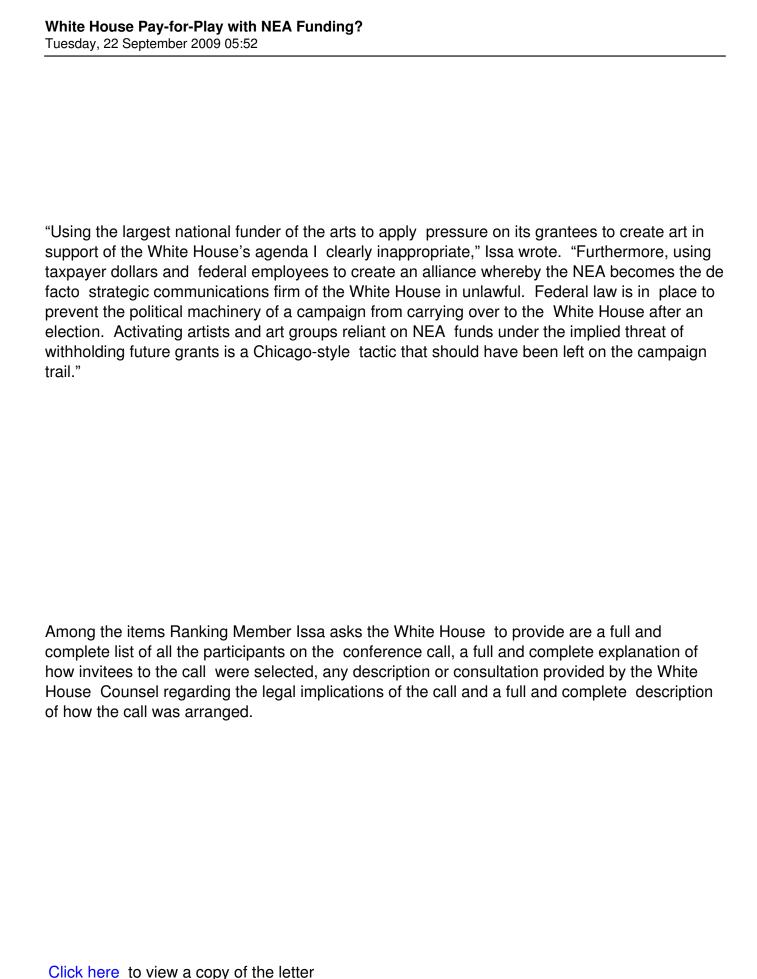
**WASHINGTON. D.C.** – House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Ranking Member Darrell Issa (R-CA) sent a letter today to White House Senior Advisor Valerie Jarrett calling for a full release of information related to a conference call that occurred on August 10 th

in which the White House Office of Public Engagement inappropriately asked participants on the call to support the Administration's efforts.

"It is inappropriate for representatives of the White House, NEA, and CNCS to formally ask artists and entertainers to use their talents to support the President's agenda because many of these people rely on NEA grants to subsidize their livelihoods," Issa wrote. "Moreover, using NEA to promote the Administration's agenda circumvents federal and constitutional law controlling certain types of agency communication. Federal law prohibits the use of federal funds to pay for public relations campaigns absent a specific appropriation for that purpose."

At the request of the National Endowment of the Arts (NEA) Communications Director Yosi Sergant, groups of "artists, producers, promoters, organizers, influencers, marketers, tastemakers, leaders, or just plain cool people" were invited to participate in the conference call along with Nell Abernathy, Director of Outreach for United We Serve and Buffy Wicks, Deputy Director of the White House Office of Public Engagement. During the call, the 75 members of the art an entertainment community were urged to promote the President's agenda by creating art consistent with the goals of *United We Serve*.



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